

**ABSTRACT**

**An optical film of the invention comprises: a complex type scattering-dichroic absorbing polarizer including a film that has a structure having a minute domain dispersed in a matrix formed of an optically-transparent water-soluble resin including an iodine based light absorbing material and a birefringent film including a transparent film formed of a solid polymer that having the characteristic  $n_x > n_y > n_z$ , where a direction in which a refractive index in a film plane gives maximum is defined as X-axis, a direction perpendicular to X-axis as Y-axis, a thickness direction of the film as Z-axis, and refractive indices in each axial direction are defined as  $n_{x1}$ ,  $n_{y1}$ , and  $n_{z1}$ , respectively. The optical film has a high transmittance and a high degree of polarization, can produce high contrast in a wide viewing angle range, and can suppress unevenness in transmittance during black viewing.**